

## ***BIM manifest for Belgium***



Building Information Modelling (BIM) is drastically reshaping methods and procedures in construction industry, not only in Belgium, but in whole Europe and the entire world. BIM is not just a new trend, it is a paradigm shift supported by an entirely new way of thinking and doing. Instead of keeping all stakeholders in the construction of a building in their own small islands of information, BIM allows to make bridges between stakeholders and to build higher quality constructions, in a shorter amount of time and with lower failure costs, thanks to an efficient collaboration.

Using BIM software at design stage has by now proven a return of investment of 20 times the cost of making the BIM model in the assembly phase and of 60 times the cost making the BIM model in the building operation phase. The potential is huge. Furthermore, the benefits are felt by *all* stakeholders in the building life-cycle:

- architectural designer: reduction of design errors and thus lower failure costs
- contractor and subcontractors: more efficient building process, less failure costs, and less time required for construction
- engineering offices: better integration between technical and architectural design (less errors) and more efficient checking and detailing process
- third party control office: better understanding of a building and thus a more efficient checking of building construction quality
- facility manager: better informed facility management (cost reduction), improved building operation (cost reduction), and better designed buildings (reduced failure costs)

The combination of these benefits ensures the building owner a better building at a lower cost. These benefits have been recognised in many countries by now and resulted in a considerable number of national BIM guideline documents, BIM norms, and BIM handbooks. These documents present practical guidelines allowing stakeholders to implement BIM in a nationally agreed manner. The current BIM handbook for Belgian construction industry aims to do the same thing for Belgium. It presents a set of practical rules and recommendations which allow a BIM process manager to elaborate his own project-specific BIM protocol with all the different stakeholders involved. Following the BIM protocol outlined in this BIM handbook will allow you as a stakeholder to change the way you work and boost your business in architecture and construction.